

The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 1 December 1966



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DAILY BRIEF
1 DECEMBER 1966

1. Communist China

A deep split has developed in the Red Guard movement over the question of attacking party and government officials.

According to late information, the militant Red Guard "Revolution Rebel" Headquarters announced last week that it planned to ransack the headquarters of its main rival, which it called a "royalist" group, that was trying to shield the party. This "rebel" headquarters is believed to have directed goon squads that have been ransacking government offices and factories during the past six weeks.

Although the Guards were ordered early last month not to interfere with production, a newspaper published by the "rebel" group has revealed that clashes were still occurring, especially in factories, in late November. One account describes a 15-hour battle at a major tool plant in which 60 people were hurt. Factory loudspeakers urged the workers to "shoot to kill...these students are gangsters."

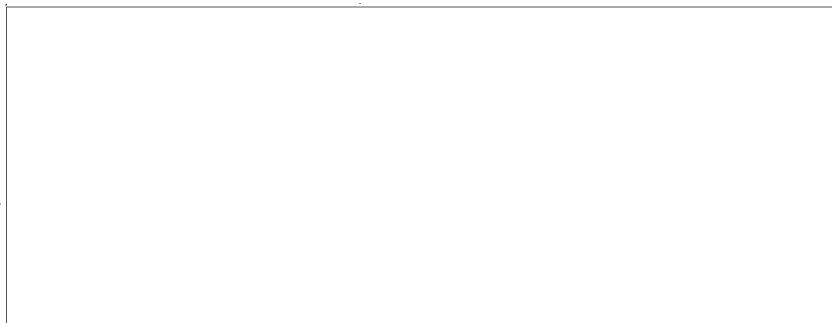
Outside of Peking, the Red Guard movement now seems to be split on the same political issue.

2. South Vietnam

Actions in the constituent assembly yesterday point up the potentially dangerous friction that is continuing between civilians and soldiers. The assembly's recent decision to require all military officers to resign their commissions before serving in the future government probably insures intensification of the rivalry.

Some influential leaders in the assembly feel strongly that this issue overshadows all other constitutional questions.

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3. Jordan

Yesterday's calm was broken early this morning by two clashes between Jordanian police and armed infiltrators from Syria. The Syrians are trying to play up the incident as one in which Jordanian citizens were fired on as they were fleeing into Syria to escape Husayn's oppression.

4. Japan

Prime Minister Sato won out in his party's presidential elections today, but the vote against him far exceeded the "worst case" calculations of Japanese political observers. The drop in Sato's fortunes means a new struggle for power in the Liberal Democratic Party before general elections next year.

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5. Soviet Union

The Russians are having a good deal of trouble deciding on the guidelines for their new Five-Year Plan (1966-70). Although Kosygin said last April that the plan "must be ready in four or five months," the latest word is that final approval will be delayed until late next spring.

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6. Kenya

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